The Group comprised representatives of Ministry of Kailways, Departments of Coal and Power, Coal India limited and the Central Electricity Authority.

**Delay in implementation of Karnal and Mangalore refinery projects**

*472. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that due to inordinate delay and inefficient im plementation of Karnal and Manga-
• efinery projects, the refinery capacity of 9 million tonnes, which was earlier expected to be realised by the end of the current plan period is now likely to be available only during the Eighth Plan period; and

(b) if so, what are the details in thi$_s$ regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRl BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) Government had proposed during the VI Plan the setting up of two grass root refineries at Karnal and Mangalore. However, during the exercises made for provisions for these projects in the Vllth Plan, it was found that serious resource constraints were coming i$_n$ the way of taking up these two projects in the pubic sector. It has therefore been decided to take up these in the joint sector, with suitable private parties.

2. The Kamal Refinery is expected to be commissioned in 1992-93. A detailed project report is being prepared for the Mangalore Refinery. Investment decision on this will be taken after the DPR is ready.

**Explosion at industrial explosive manufacturing unit near Cochin**

*473. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY;

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's atten-
been drawn to the news-item which appeared lin thhe Hindustan dated the 6th March, 1988 . •in it has been stated that ten •: were charred to death when a chemical they were handling at an industrial explosive manufacturing unit near Cochin accidentally exploded;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether any inquiry has since been conducted into the matter and what action has been taken by Government in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGALRAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Ten women were killed in an explosion in a gunpowder/fire-works factory at Kadakoodam in Nadama Village near Thripunithura on 5-3-1988. The pounding and mixing shed of the factory was also raized to the ground.

(c) The accident is being investigated by the Controller of Explosives, Ernakulam, under the supervision of the Deputy Chief Controller of Explosives, Madras. The licence granted to the factory for the manufacture of fireworks/gunpowder has been suspended by the Deputy Chief Controller of Explosives, Madras on 7-3-88. The Police have filed a ease under the relevant provisions of law.